

Associate PRESS

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Vol. 22, No. 2 ♦ The Home Team ♦ March 2000

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Army Air Force hero finally puts on master sergeant stripes

▲ Bataan Death March survivor, McChord's favorite vocalist promoted after 55-year wait

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay

♦ 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

From head to toe, Bryce Lilly wears his light-brown, Army Air Force uniform as if he has stepped out of a 1945 military dress and appearance manual. He proudly wears his uniform at McChord when he's asked to sing at a variety of military events.



They made him get down on his knees...and chopped his head off with a sword. That's when we knew we were captured by animals.

Bryce Lilly

He also wears his uniform when he speaks at local junior high schools, high schools and colleges about surviving the infamous Bataan Death March and his horrifying three years as a prisoner of war during World War II.

Lilly hasn't altered his uniform since 1945, when he left the Army Air Force as a technical sergeant. Now 55 years later, Lilly's uniform underwent a long awaited addition.

After a mistake in his military paperwork was finally corrected, the 79-year-old Lilly was officially awarded his master sergeant stripes in a ceremony at McChord Feb. 29.

"I brought the stripes I bought 55 years ago," Lilly said, with a smile as deep and rich as his golden, tenor singing voice used to sing his three favorite songs — "The Air Force Song," "God Bless America" and the national anthem. "It was just one of those dumb mistakes that happens."

Now, Lilly can wear his Army Air Force master sergeant stripes — three yellow stripes up and three down — on the sleeves of his World War II Eisenhower-style, brown service coat. The same type he wore as a 21-year-old



Photo by Daniel Thompson

It's official -- Master Sgt Bryce Lilly, gets his master sergeant stripes placed on him by a special honor guard of four Vietnam veterans.

technical sergeant while stationed with the 21st Pursuit Squadron at Nichols Field in the Philippines on Dec. 7, 1941; a day that started nearly four years of infamy for Lilly.

"We heard on the radio that the (Japanese) attacked Pearl Harbor," Lilly said, thinking back to the days when he worked on the propellers of the 20 P-40Es assigned to the squadron. "The very next day, the (Japanese) hit us."

For the next four months, Lilly and the allied forces on the Philippines faced around the clock, ruthless attacks from the Japanese.

"We were out numbered 50-to-1; our planes were antiquated and, in four weeks, we were reduced to just five airplanes," Lilly said. "Everyone moved to Bataan. (Gen. Douglas) MacArthur thought we could hold it — and we did — for four months."

Lilly and his comrades were not only fighting the Japanese, they were also in a war

against hunger and thirst.

"We were reduced to one-eighth rations for the last two months — there just wasn't any food available," Lilly said. "We ate snakes, insects, monkeys...anything we could catch."

A Tacoma-area high school star athlete, the "husky," 5-foot-9 Lilly went into the service weighing about 175-180 pounds. During this time, he lost more than 20 pounds. And with the 24-hour attacks and bombing, an hour of sleep was just a dream.

"I remember thinking every time we got attacked, 'How in the hell did I get here?'" Lilly said. "I mean, just a few years before, I pitched a no-hitter for Lincoln High School. I was thinking I should be playing baseball...but here I am."

At one point, Lilly took out a Japanese out-

▲ See MASTER SERGEANT on Pages 4-5

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deadline for articles in the

April issue of the

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All articles and photographs
must be turned in to the
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Keep answering the phone when the calls come

▲ Support group commander prepares to retire after 32-year career

By Col. Tom Blank

◆ 446th Support Group commander

I would like to start
this article with a
special "thank you"
To Master Sgt. Bud
McKay, the editor of the
Associate Press, for
"offering" one last
opportunity for me to
excel. My first *Associate
Press* experience was an
interview conducted by
then Staff Sgt. Bud
McKay for the October
1993 edition — just look at us now.



Blank

I do not consider myself to be an accom-
plished writer. The few articles I have written
for the *Associate Press* were not particularly
noteworthy, nor were they particularly easy to
come up with.

This one is by far the toughest. April is my
last unit training assembly as I complete 32
years in the Air Force; the last 26 of those in the
Reserve.

I enlisted in the Air Force in 1967 to avoid
the draft and the Army. We were wearing
fatigues and 1505s; F-
102s and F-106s were
being replaced by state-
of-the-art F-4s; we
were worrying about
the Fulda Gap, and the
hot spot was Vietnam.

My plan was to do
four years, get out, and
not look back. Some-
where along the way,
something changed my
plan.

I was discharged from active duty in June
1974 and pulled my first UTA three months
later with the 434th Tactical Fighter Wing at
Grissom AFB, Ind. The rest, as they say, is
history; or will be come April.

I have very mixed emotions about retiring. I
will miss my blue suit with its traditions, your
"can do" spirit and dedication, the events with
our achievements and particularly the stories
that go along with them.

I will not miss the absolutely nonfunctional
flight cap, Air Force Reserve Command's
budget process and the never-ending deluge of
additional tasks without support.

All in all, the scales are tipped way in favor
of high points and good times.

I will finish my military career with nearly
seven years in the 446th Support Group. It is
not the same group it was in 1993.

We deactivated the communications flight
and added the medical and aeromedical staging
squadrons. Learning to speak medical was truly
a challenge.

We moved Prime RIBS (Readiness in Base
Services) to mission support and made them a
port mortuary team. Civil engineers reorganized
three times and picked up the explosive ord-
nance disposal mission. Security forces com-
bined security, law enforcement and combat
arms into one specialty.

There have been four deputy commanders,
10 squadron commanders, and 12 first sergeants
since 1993. It is a good thing all of you can
handle change.

There have been a host of best-seen, best-
individual and best-unit awards. One of the
most significant was the cops "Best Overall"
title in Rodeo '98. You proved one more time
that older and wiser with a plan beats youth and
undirected energy.

All of you have been there day in and day
out. You made significant advancements and

achievements in our
never-ending quest to
improve combat
readiness. You train
harder and prepare for
more diverse missions
than ever before in the
Group's history. You
have all done a great
job, I could not ask for
a more dedicated hard
working force.

I reviewed the story
McKay wrote back in 1993 — in it, I established
a personal goal of helping the 446 SPTG
become the unit of choice when AFRC wanted
something done right the first time.

I know how you did, how did I do?

I'll close this with what has become my
support group motto: When they're cold,
hungry, tired, wet, bored, on fire, scared,
broken, sick, or dead...who are they're gonna'
call? 1-800-446 SPTG.

Keep on answering the phone.

▼ Commander's Hotline

1. 2 5 3. 9 8 4. 9 1 3 3



*Your comments, suggestions and concerns
are important to me to address. Call the
Commander's Hotline at 1-253-984-9133 or fill
out an Immediate Action Worksheet (in the
insert of the 446th Associate Press) and I'll have
an answer for you in the next newspaper.*

◆ Col. Alan Mitchell, commander

◆ **Editor's note:** The article the colonel is
talking about will be posted on the wing's
internet site <http://www.mcchord.af.mil/446aw>

Air Force Reservist trains Navy Sea Cadets aboard historic ship

By Senior Airman Tim Bradley

◆ Wing Public Affairs

People raised on or near a military installation understand what it is like to dream about one day becoming one of those heroic men or women dressed in uniform. Children growing up in vibrating houses with F-16's roaring overhead may have thought about becoming a fighter pilot. Youngsters growing up near an Army post may have had a desire to become soldiers.

These scenarios are common to the 446th Civil Engineering Squadron's Master Sgt. Mike Heryla, a reserve and civilian fire fighter. After growing up eight miles away from New London, Conn., home of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Heryla is now a volunteer Navy Sea Cadet instructor

As a boy, Heryla recalls gazing out to sea, observing the Coast Guard ships cruise in and out of the harbor. One ship, in particular, caught Heryla's attention — the training vessel "Barque Eagle." The Eagle is not just any ordinary training vessel — it's the only remaining sailing ship in the U.S. military inventory.

Heryla wondered about the Eagle's profound history and imagined what it would be like to be part of the crew on such a ship. Nearly an entire Air Force career later, Heryla is no longer dreaming about life on the Eagle. Himself and three Navy Sea Cadets set sail for a two-week adventure aboard this historic ship March 9.

Shoving off from New London, Conn., the Eagle and her crew sails south to Athens, Ga., and then back to New London. The mission of the voyage is to train Coast Guard Academy cadets, but Heryla and the three sea cadets were invited aboard the Eagle for an adventure that will likely last a lifetime.

"I was pretty enthusiastic and surprised when I found out I was going," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Pirone, a Navy Sea Cadet for two years, which makes him practically a veteran.

Heryla is acting as an instructor and escort to the cadets during their voyage at sea. Although the trip is a golden opportunity for both Heryla and the sea cadets, it is by no means a party cruise.

"They will be incorporated into the duties of the crew," Heryla said about his young sailors.

The two weeks at sea are packed with



U.S. Coast Guard photo

The U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle heading out to sea.

enough training and work to leave even the most ambitious seaman breathless. Heryla plans to conduct courses on standing watch, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, water rescue, vessel safety, fire prevention, survival at sea and more.

Heryla requires each cadet to keep a journal. In addition, cadets also participate as temporary seamen while they are on board, receiving hands-on training of a variety of career fields.

If that wasn't enough to keep them busy, the sea cadets are also expected to maintain their schoolwork while at sea. Because all three cadets are 16 years old, and the voyage is taking place during the school year, they will be missing two weeks of school. While they are aboard the vessel, Heryla is responsible for checking and assisting the cadets with their studies.

And the learning won't be confined to books. The cadets will eat, sleep and sometimes work with the Coast Guard Cadets and officers of the Eagle.

"Everyone will learn from everyone," he said.

Heryla said the three cadets were chosen for the trip because of their outstanding devotion and teamwork. They have been

▼ Barque Eagle

Length: 295 feet

Max speed: 16 knots

Maximum range: 5,450 miles

Sailing: Cadets handle more than 20,000 square feet of sail and five miles of rigging. Over 200 lines must be coordinated during a major ship maneuver.

involved with the sea cadets for a while and are active in many military functions.

According to Koralie Heryla, Navy Sea Cadet instructor and the wife of Mike Heryla, the Navy Sea Cadets are a national organization, which teaches

young people about patriotism, military environment and seamanship.

The Navy Sea Cadets conducts training on military installations all around the country and often assists military units and organizations. In the past, they've trained at McChord by assisting in past Rodeos and providing security for one of McChord's air shows.

Although the Navy Sea Cadets is a Navy program, the cadets are given the opportunity to learn many career fields from each branch of service. They get a hands-on impression of which type of job and service may be right for them. Former cadets have been known to enlist in all five branches of services.

"We will train with any military unit," said Koralie Heryla. "This gives the cadets the opportunity to understand more about each service."

And it will give the cadets something to think about long after their two weeks at sea.

MASTER SERGEANT

▲ Continued from Page 1



Courtesy photo
Army Air Force Tech. Sgt. Bryce Lilly, taken about 1943, that was used in his official prisoner of war personnel folder.

post single-handed. Using his speed, strength and agility, Lilly surprised the outpost's five Japanese soldiers, taking less than two seconds to empty his six-shot, .45 caliber pistol, killing them all. One miss and Lilly could have been killed. But the Japanese learned early that killing Lilly was not possible. In February 1942, Lilly was shot in the head.

"I always thought if I laid real low, I could hide behind my helmet, thinking it would protect me," Lilly said, as he ran his hand over his still military regulation hair, now a shade lighter than the gray on the McChord cargo aircraft. "But when the bullet hit the helmet, it was like hitting tinfoil — the bullet went

right through. The entrance hole was about the size of my thumb print, but out the back, it was as big as a baseball."

That bullet took out a three-inch long channel on top of Lilly's head. Spread out so thin, Lilly's comrades never saw him get hit. When Lilly managed to crawl some 70 yards on his stomach, he found out why.

"They were all dead," he said. The thunderous noise and concussion of the bombs, machine guns and small arms fire made the leaves on the ground leap off the ground as he worked his way back to one last foxhole.

"The roar of the gunfire and bombs was so great — you would think the earth would split open by the roar — a grenade could go off a few feet from you

and not make the slightest difference," Lilly said, cupping his ears as he spoke. "But I'll never forget hearing over the noise the voice of Captain Croom when he saw me crawling toward him in the foxhole.

"Get over here!" Lilly said, leaning forward in his chair, clenching his teeth and imitating the same man with "steel-gray eyes" who told Lilly and the others before not to stop until "you kill all of them or they kill all of you."

The captain wrapped Lilly's head and stopped the bleeding and then sent Lilly out to crawl another 60 yards to an ambulance. As he crawled, Lilly said he remembered a crazy thought came into his head.

"I just knew I was going to get shot in the rear end," he said, chuckling with a belly laugh. "It's crazy what you think about at a time like that, but all I could think about was having to explain to everyone back home how I got shot in the rear end."

But that thought quickly left Lilly's head when he finally made it to the ambulance. Lilly ran into a high school friend from Tacoma. But this wasn't a normal high school reunion.

"He was laying in a six-foot circle of blood," Lilly said. "He was a good friend of mine from Stadium High School. At least I was able to say goodbye to him before he died."

Lilly returned to action and fought gallantly against the Japanese forces until April 9, 1942. The Japanese were deep inside the lines of the Americans and Lilly said he can remember seeing the Japanese soldiers stream in almost as fast as the Americans retreated toward Bataan.

The day before, the Americans were told not to surrender under any circumstance. But with ammunition running out, no medical supplies or food, Army Maj. Gen. Edward King Jr., the senior American officer of the remaining 78,000 American servicemen, surrendered to the Japanese.

"It was just complete turmoil," Lilly said. "We didn't

even know we had surrendered. We were surrounded and figured when daylight came, the (Japanese) would come in a wipe us out. But we found out that General King, a grand old man, had surrendered us."

The Americans surrendered their weapons, ammunition and supplies the next day. Lilly had what would be his last bite of meat that night for three years. Lilly remembers telling everyone about a couple of his teachers who had visited Japan before and told him about how decent and nice the people were.

"Then they lined us all up together in a huge formation and called one of our guys out to the front," Lilly said. "They made him get down on his knees...and chopped his head off with a sword. That's when we knew we were captured by animals."

Lilly had a sickening feeling deep in his stomach that day, and it wasn't just from seeing his comrade beheaded. The meat he ate the night before was poisoned and the effects on his systems were starting to kick in. That's the same day, the nearly 70-mile Bataan Death March started. The entire march would take place with temperatures from 100 to 110 degrees.

"I started out at a tremendous disadvantage," Lilly said.

◆ DEATH MARCH BEGINS

Groups of 100 captured American and Philippine servicemen, in single-file lines, marched along a narrow and twisting road. At the back of each group were five to 10 Japanese soldiers with rifles and bayonets. Lilly called them the cleanup squad.

"If you fell out from exhaustion, or even just fell down, why the (Japanese) would just run you through with their bayonets and kill you," Lilly said. "They didn't use bullets because bullets were too valuable."

The Americans were not given any food or water until the third day of the march. On this day, they were given a handful of cooked rice and water.

"I never knew what thirsty meant until then," Lilly said. "That thirst came out from your bones."

When the march ended after five days, more than 10,000 American and Philippine POWs died.

"Ten thousand guys..." Lilly said, his voice falling off. "Someone figured out that there was a body to step over every 12 to 14 steps we took."

Three months later, with a diet of just a cup of rice and two half-cups of water a day in the POW camp, Lilly, who was the 175-pound boxing champion at California's Moffit Air Field a year ago, weighed 70 pounds.

◆ SHIPPED TO JAPAN

More than a year later, Lilly was sent to Japan in the cargo bay of a small ship that could hold 200 men. However, the Japanese crammed 1,000 POWs inside.

Normally, this trip would take a little more than a week. But it took Lilly's boat two agonizing months to make the voyage due to constant engine breakdowns and zigzagging to avoid American submarines. All the while, outside temperatures soared above 110 degrees every day at sea.

"It is like having six or seven people packed in a Volkswagen Beetle where you drive for two months and you can't ever get out," Lilly said. "We sat off the Philippine coast for a week before we ever moved. We got two cups of rice and one drink of water a day for two months. But that wasn't really two months — that was a hundred years. But we had a picnic compared to another ship."

That ship started out with 1,500 men — 50 survived.

"They were so crammed that when they died, they died standing up — they couldn't fall down," Lilly said. "They didn't get any water or rice at all — none. They'd kill each other just to get to the sides of the ship. You see, the metal of the ships would sweat and they would lick the water off of the metal. It was the only way they would get fluids."

When Lilly arrived in Japan,

January 1940 ▼

Bryce Lilly joins Army Air Corps, a year later, it's Renamed Army Air Force.

he was greeted with a speech from the commander of the POW camps.

"He told us, 'You are not honorable soldiers; you are all criminals,'" Lilly said. "Then he said, 'You are enemies of Nippon — you will always be enemies of Nippon.'"

"I remember thinking, 'You got that right.'"

Rice was still the only food substance, but it came in bowls now, not cups, as did the water. Still, Lilly said 50 to 60 men died every day in the prison camp. And Lilly was one of the strong men who could work on the burial detail.

"We'd go out about a quarter-of-a-mile from camp and dig a six-foot wide and (six-foot) deep hole every day," Lilly said. "We'd throw the bodies in like we were stacking wood. When

we were done, the bodies were easily five feet high. We didn't have enough dirt to cover them all up.

Everywhere you looked, you'd see arms, legs sticking out from dozens and dozens of burial mounds. We did this day after day, month after month."

Weighing 115 pounds, Lilly's kidneys shut down and he had any one of a dozen diseases and infections, including what seemed like permanent dysentery. Ironically, Lilly thinks that helped keep him alive.

"I'd have to go to the bathroom 40, 50 times a day...sometimes a hundred," Lilly said. "It was just blood, and it burned like fire. But I had to walk 40 yards to get there and 40 yards back. All that walking kept my muscles toned and my blood circulating."

There wasn't much small talk among the American men during his two-and-a-half years in Japan. But when there was, the talk centered around something out of the norm of what confined men usually talk about.

"If you are in a prison, normally men talk about women," Lilly said with soft smile.

"There, all we ever talked about was *food*."

Lilly remembered telling anyone who would listen about his plans on having a refrigerator in every room of his house when he got home.

"Even the bathrooms," he said.

During their last year in the POW camp, the Americans were given a special treat once a month.

"I have to tell you, in all my years, I've never had a more tastier meal — they gave us fish heads to go with the rice," Lilly said, describing his meal like a fine-diner would reminiscence about a mouth-watering meal from a five-star restaurant. "You have to remember, for three years, I've had *nothing* but rice — that was like eating sawdust. We just craved flavor — especially salt.

"I know it sounds dainty, but we'd pick small pieces of the fish head — even the eyes — and try to make it last as long as we could."

Still, even this added luxury wasn't enough for some of the American POWs.

"It never once occurred to me that I was going to die," he said. "Some of the weaker guys would stop eating. I'd get so mad at them, I'd start swearing at them, 'You son-of-a-bitch, eat it or you will die!' They just didn't care anymore."

◆ THE END IS NEAR

By the summer of 1945, Lilly had no idea how the war was going. On Aug. 1, an American B-29 flew over the steel mill Lilly and the others slaved in, dropping leaflets to let them know "hell was coming." The next day, more than 1,000 B-29s flew over the city taking out the steel mill, copper mill and anything else that looked industrial with volumes of 500-pound incendiary bombs.

"Seeing those B-29s was like God came to us," Lilly said. "For four hours, there wasn't a second that a bomb didn't come whistling down. We were able to take cover in the middle of a rice paddy. It was the only place we could go to keep from burning up in the heat."

Like being thrown in the middle of a convection oven, the heat from the bombs and fires generated hurricane-force winds all around Lilly. Still, it may surprise some people what thoughts were going through Lilly's mind at that time.

"All I could think about was the food those guys (B-29 aircrews) got to eat," he said.

On Aug. 14, 1945, the war ended. Two weeks later, Lilly's blue-gray-colored eyes that have witnessed so much death and destruction saw a shining light over head.

A blue, Navy Hellcat fighter flew less than 100 feet over the POW camp and tossed a carton of cigarettes, in a small makeshift parachute made from a hanky, out the window. A message scrolled on the side of the carton read, "We'll be back to get you."

"When I saw that grand and glorious Navy insignia, it sparkled like diamonds," Lilly said.

Still, Lilly had to wait until Sept. 5, 1945, to be liberated from the POW camp. That's when he flew on a cargo aircraft back to the Philippines. He finally arrived back in Seattle via a Navy ship Oct. 3 where he would be taken to Fort Lewis' Madigan Army Hospital.

◆ HOMECOMING

When his friends and family waited anxiously to see Lilly for the first time in Seattle, they were prepared for the worst. Expecting him to look frail and weak. Instead, Lilly didn't waste much time getting back to the athlete he was.

"I weighed 190 pounds," Lilly said. "From the first day, I ate six meals a day. In between, I ate sandwiches that I stuffed down in my pockets. I still maintained a 29-inch waist, so it wasn't like I was fat — it was all muscle. When I wasn't eating, I worked out doing push-ups, chin-ups and sit-ups."

Lilly would learn that while he was in the POW camp his dad died. A newspaper article from a Tacoma newspaper reported Lilly's dad died from the grief and sorrow over his oldest son's capture. Lilly went on to gradu-

ate from the University of Washington, where he met his wife, Virginia. They were married December 1948.

Lilly made a career in the real estate business, selling property in the San Juan Islands. But it wasn't until eight years ago that he took up singing.

"Oh, I sang in high school occasionally," Lilly said. "I've never had any lessons. People are surprised when I tell them that. But I just realized that music is such a great medium to the kids. It really carries a message, rather than just talking.

Oh, I get such a great return from people who hear me sing. I'll go to a school and within a couple of days, I'll get hundreds of letters."

Lilly did go back to the Philippines in 1967 for an anniversary of the fall of Bataan. He flew over Japan but had no desire or time to stop for a visit.

When asked if he holds any bitterness these 55 years, Lilly got up out of his chair and walked over to a collection of photos of his four children and nine grandchildren in his Kenmore, Wash., home.

"I don't have enough time to spend with all of them as it is," Lilly said, as he held up picture after picture. "We have such good kids. I don't have time to even think of any bitterness. I have so much warmth in my heart from my children. They are the ones who keep me alive."

Sept. 5, 1945 ▼

After being a prisoner of war since April 9, 1942, Bryce Lilly, weighing about 80 pounds, is liberated from a Japan POW camp and flown to the Philippines. When he arrives back in Seattle for his homecoming Oct. 3, 1945, he weighs 190 pounds.



Courtesy photo
Right out of high school and fashioning himself in a 1940's version of a Speedo, Bryce Lilly shows off his 180-pound frame. Within two years, he would drop to 70 pounds.

McChord Reserve C-17 pilots fly aid into Mozambique

Capt. Robert Sawyer, and 1st Lt. Tim Davis, both C-17 pilots from the 728th Airlift Squadron, who flew on the first U.S. military aircraft into Mozambique delivering critically needed aid to the flood victims in Southern Africa March 1, returned to SeaTac airport March 5.

Sawyer, Davis and an Air Force Reserve aircrew from Charleston AFB, S.C., delivered 85,000 pounds of supplies including blankets, plastic jugs for storing water, bottled water, rolls of plastic sheeting for emergency shelter, and boxes of high-energy biscuits.

"We dropped off 18 pallets of supplies...but that's a small drop in the bucket compared to all of devastation going on there," Davis said.

The supplies came from U.S. Agency for International Development stockpiles in Pisa, Italy.

The mission became one of desperation as the flooding continues across Southern Africa, where more than 100,000 people are stranded.

"When we flew into Maputo, you could see where the main river was supposed to be because there were no trees," Sawyer said. "But now, the river has gone as far as five miles beyond its normal banks. When we flew out over where the river flows into the ocean, all you saw for nearly three miles was brown from the mud of the river. It was incredible to see."

The two McChord reservists teamed up with Charleston's 315th Airlift Wing aircrew, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, when they were tasked to fly the humanitarian mission. Ramstein is the staging area for the humanitarian mission named Operation Atlas Response.

The Air Force has several hundred people and aircraft in and en route to southern Africa, where they are establishing staging bases for a humanitarian airlift into the region.

◆ U.S. Air Forces in Europe and AFRC News Services



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay

Master Sgt. Clay Henry, Air Force Reserve Command recruiter in Tukwila, goes over last-minute paperwork with Steven Perritt, 20. Perritt leaves for basic training March 15.

AFRC looks within to recruit recruiters

▲ 446th Airlift Wing has first unfilled recruiting slot in last 12 years

By Pamela Nault

◆ AFRC Public Affairs

While Air Force Reserve Command recruiters work to fill vacancies in a variety of career fields, they must also work to fill shortages within their own ranks. A program called "Recruit the Recruiter" aims to locate future recruiters from within the command's enlisted corps.

And for the first time in a long time, the 446th Airlift Wing is looking to recruit its own recruiter.

"We now have recruiters stationed in Japan counseling active-duty separatees," said Chief Master Sgt. Tim Balas, senior recruiter for the 446th AW. "The draw back of that restructure is that we used to have six line recruiters taking care of the Puget Sound area; currently we have three. We should have four, but unlike any other time that I can remember at McChord we actually have a recruiting vacancy."

Currently, there are 15 recruiting vacancies throughout the United States at Reserve flying wing locations.

A full-time active guard and reserve assignment in recruiting, according to Maj. Scott Ostrow, chief of the AFRC Recruiting Training Branch, Robins AFB, Ga., includes full pay and allowances, \$375 per month special duty pay and great promotion potential.

"Recruiting experience is not a prerequisite," Ostrow said. "We're looking for enthusiastic enlisted members with five-level train-

ing in their career field, who are interested in an (AGR) renewable tour in recruiting."

Anyone in the 446th AW interested in becoming a recruiter should call Balas at 984-3501 to schedule an interview. Accepted applicants travel to command headquarters for further evaluation. Then it's on to five weeks of recruiting training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

"The Recruit the Recruiter campaign includes placement of display ads in Reserve unit newspapers and civilian publications," Ostrow said. "We want to get the word out that we're looking for Reserve recruiters who are goal oriented."

Meeting that goal is the bottom line.

"We must have a full complement of 300-plus production recruiters in order to sign-up 12,000 qualified citizen airmen in Fiscal 2000."

For Fiscal 1999, the 446th recruiters gained 492 new people — the highest since 583 were recruited in 1987.

"We have been historically successful at McChord with a very good accession rate" Balas said. "Over the last five years we have averaged more than 380 recruits."

Overall, even though AFRC had its best annual accession rate per recruiter, the command fell short of meeting its goal for the Fiscal 1999. The command recruited 9,146 people or 81.4 percent of its 11,241 target.

Ostrow attributes the recruiting shortfall to a strong economy, a market shift toward non-prior service personnel and the reduced propensity to enlist in the military.

◆ AFRC News Service

▼ Operation Fiery Relief



Photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Mount Mayon volcano sits majestically in the background as U.S. and Philippine military personnel off-load tents and dust masks from an MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft from the 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan. Two MC-130H aircraft brought 36,000 pounds of supplies in February destined for people evacuated from areas near the erupting volcano.

Mandatory travel card date extended to May 1

Service members and Defense Department civilians now have until May 1 before use of the government travel credit card is mandatory. William Lynn, undersecretary of defense (comptroller), signed the memorandum announcing the extension March 1.

Nelson Toye, DOD's deputy chief financial officer, said DOD finance officials are to implement the travel card program to the fullest extent possible.

He said the extension does not mean Congress is rethinking the policy. It has just taken longer than expected for government agencies to work out the details.

DOD issued new policies in mid-February to implement travel card requirements in an amendment to the Federal Travel Regulation published by the GSA in the Jan. 19 Federal Register.

The amendment implements requirements in the Travel and Transportation

Reform Act of 1998.

The current contractor is Bank of America VISA.

◆ American Forces Press Service

Air Force issues its Notice of Intent on first operational F-22 wing

The Air Force published the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register

March 3 to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to assess the potential

environmental impacts of a proposal to beddown the initial F-22 operational wing.

The F-22 air superiority fighter is being developed to replace the F-15. The first aircraft delivery is scheduled in 2004. The proposal is to beddown a total of 72 operational aircraft grouped into three squadrons.

The Air Force will screen five alternative locations for the initial beddown, including Langley Air Force Base; Eglin



The F-22 Raptor.

AFB and Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; and Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

◆ Air Force Print News

Help wanted -- retention program manager for 446th Operations Group

The 446th Operations Group is looking for a group retention program manager. This is a new position in a master sergeant's slot. The selected individual will manage the retention programs conducted by each unit assigned within the group.

People who are interested in applying for the position must send a letter of intent, a military resume and three letters of recommendations by April 8, to:

446th OG/CC
1205 12th Street NE
Suite 102W
McChord AFB, WA
98438-1326

Individuals selected for interview will be notified as to date, time, location and uniform requirements, after April 10.

Olympic track legend Carl Lewis soars in F-16

As if he wasn't fast enough already, track star Carl Lewis picked up even more speed recently when he flew an F-16 orientation flight as the guest of the Texas Air National Guard at Kelly AFB, Texas. Lewis, a nine-time Olympic gold medalist, visited the base as part of Kelly's African-American Heritage Month activities.

Lewis also filmed public service announcements for the Air Force and Air National Guard.

"In my short time here, I've already seen how important teamwork is in a military unit like this one," Lewis said. "It's important for everyone to learn to believe in others and have them believe in you as a fellow team member."

◆ Air Force Print News

Promotions

Major

Stacia Deshon, 446th ASTS
Carl Supplee, 446th AW

Senior Airman

James Schuetz, 86th APS

Newcomers

Captain

Daniel Abraham, 313th AS
Robert Bovender, 313th AS
Derek Leckrone, 97th AS
Richard Poston, 97th AS
Richard Price, 728th AS
Samuel Svitenko, 446th ALCF
David Ubelhor, 446th, ASTS
Benjamin Wool, 97th AS

Technical Sergeant

Larry Bivens, 446th MXS
Mark Gillen, 36th APS

Staff Sergeant

Kenneth Campbell, 97th AS
Chris Crownhart, 446th MDS
Victoria Duran, 446th MDS
Robert Howat, 446th MXS
James Moran, 446th SFS
Jeffrey Nelson, 446th OSF
Jose Quinones, 446th AGS
Louis Robertson, 446th CES

Senior Airman

Jamal Ahmed, 446th AGS
Abe Balala, 446th ASTS
Jerrold Goode, 446th MXS
Laurel Harvey, 446th MDS
Charles Post, 86th APS
Quay Redden, 446th AGS
Michael Silva, 446th MXS
Dustin Slagg, 446th AGS
Richard Snider, 446th MDS
Alexander Stasny, 446th SFS
Jeremy Vahle, 446th SFS
Chequita White, 446th MSS

Airman First Class

Christian Amend, 446th CES
Sean Cargill, 446th SFS
Angelina Gilbertson, 446th ASTS
Troy Gordon, 446th LSS
Jennifer Lopez, 446th AES
Nathan Strickland, 446th AES
Rachel Totten, 446th SFS

Airman

Stephanie Maiuri, 446th MSS
Moses McCart, 446th ASTS

◆ XP secretly saving time and money **SIPRnet brings the world of mobility to a small screen**

By Staff Sgt. Collen Singleton
◆ **Wing Public Affairs**

Just like in a World War II era spy movie, *F* opens a file drawer and removes a key with an 18-inch bright red streamer attached. He places the key into a hardly noticed piece of equipment no bigger than a personal compact disk player.



They can see what the Air Staff sees when they are looking at how to task a unit. They can check that their information has been entered correctly.

F Schnell

The key is for the cryptograph that encodes all the data leaving the secret little room. The cryptograph also deciphers the information coming in. *F* then reaches into another drawer and retrieves a removable secret hard drive and installs it into one of the computers.

Does it sound like James Bond has joined the 446th? Not

exactly.

Staff Sgt. F Schnell is a logistics management specialist with the 446th

Airlift Wing's Plans and Programs office, where a little room houses the computer system that accesses the classified SIPRnet.

"SIPRnet is Secure Internet Protocol Rating. It is a separate network not tied to the outside world in any way," said Master Sgt. Jason Stenkyft, system administrator for the 446th Airlift Wing.

From that 12-foot square room, squadron and theater commanders can get instant total global gratification. At least as far as unit mobility tasking information is concerned.

Before the availability of the SIPRnet, the plans were contained in binders that were mailed to the plans and programs office at considerable cost.

"As planners, we used to use hard copy reports sent out by gaining major command theater commanders to describe what was going to happen in the event of hostilities," said Schnell. "These plans are quite in depth and consume many trees and require (constant) updates."

In the past, the plans were updated every six months, with the SIPRnet, accessed through the Global Command and Control System information is always being updated as changes are made.

Having this information helps squadron commanders plan what resources will be needed should anything happen in an area their units are tasked for.

"It can tell them (commanders) that there is enough space to land and the right support equipment (will be there) when they get wherever," Schnell said.

◆ **MORE THAN ONE USE**

SIPRnet has information for more than just the commanders.

"It could tell a maintenance person whether there is or is not depot level maintenance, whether there is a wash station, whatever a maintenance troop would need to know," said Schnell.

Schnell said that the new system can provide just about any information anyone could ever need. They just need to ask the

right question.

This new system also provides a way to check and quickly update information that is entered about each commander's own unit.

"It gives commanders access to Status of Resources and Training Statistics data," Schnell said. "They can see what the Air Staff sees when they are looking at how to task a unit. They can check that their information has been entered correctly."

The SIPRnet also provides a way for the unit to send and receive classified and secret information.

"We used to have to send secret messages from the message center at the 62nd AW Communications Center," said Schnell.

Now, they don't.

The sending of the message used to be a large ordeal with it being typed, approved by the commander and then hand-carried to the communication center. With the capability of sending messages via secure email, there are several steps that are no longer necessary thus saving time and money.

446th Associate Press



The 446th Associate Press is printed for associates like Master Sgt. Linda Moore, 446th Mission Support Squadron

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